

REMARKS

Applicants have corrected the Abstract as suggested in the Office Action and have amended the claims to remove the objections thereto and clarify the present invention.

The present invention, as now described in amended Claim 1, is a harness protector that has a wire harness, a harness protector main body for accommodating the wire harness in a curved shape, and a friction member for only temporarily contacting with and holding the wire harness in the protector main body. Such an arrangement is not taught or suggested in the references cited.

Claims 1-3 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Uchiyama et al. (U.S. 6,147,451), while Claim 4 has been rejected as obvious in view of that reference, and Claims 6-9 have been rejected as obvious in view of a combination of that reference and the teachings of Doshita et al. (JP0200/359232A).

Reconsideration and removal of these rejections are respectfully requested in view of the amendment to the claims and the following remarks.

The Office Action states that Uchiyama et al. discloses a harness protector where a wire harness 12 is contained in a housing 10 in a curved shape and that the arrangement includes a friction member (15, 17b) for temporarily holding the wire harness in the protector main body or housing 10.

A study of Uchiyama et al., however, shows that the strip-type clip 17 is engaged with a spring and the strip-type clip 18 is engaged with a back door and that both 17 and 18 are constantly in contact with the wire harness W/H. Strip portions 17a and 18a on the clips 17 and 18 are mounted

on the outer peripheral surface of a mesh tube 12 that contains the wires. As described at Col. 5, line 62 to Col. 6, line 1, of Uchiyama et al. each of the strip portions 17a and 18a and mesh tube 12 are surrounded by a respective heat shrinkable tube 21A and 21B with hot melt adhesive which permeates the mesh of the mesh tube 12 and secures the clips to the mesh tube and contained wire harness.

In contrast, the friction member 6 of the present claimed harness protector is arranged so as to only temporarily contact the wire harness and temporarily hold the same in the protector main body.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the friction member only temporarily contacts with and holds the wire harness in the protector main body, a feature completely distinct from and unobvious in view of the teachings of Uchiyama et al.

The Doshita et al. reference teachings do not add anything to the Uchiyama et al. reference that would lead one skilled in the art to the arrangement of the present claimed harness protector.

In view of the present amendments to the claims and the above remarks, Applicants' Claims 1-9 are believed to be patentable and early action towards allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

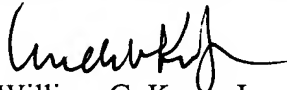
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/615,788
Reply to Office Action of May 5, 2004

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Substitute Abstract

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